GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:728
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
OVERLOADING OF VEHICLES
Maharia Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any instructions recently to check overloading of vehicles in view of the Ramdevra Mela tragedy in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the compensation provided to the families affected by the tragedy; and

(d) the steps taken to check such overloading?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Payment of compensation to the families affected by road transport tragedies is generally the responsibility of the concerned State Government. No compensation has been given by this Ministry to the families affected by the Ramdevra Mela tragedy.

(d) There are adequate provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to punish the offenders for overloading the vehicles beyond the specified load ceilings. The enforcement of these provisions lies with the State Governments. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 9.11.2005 in the matter of Shri Paramjit Bhasin and others Vs Union of India and others (W.P. No. 136/2003) had held that in case a vehicle is detected to be overloaded the excess load has to be necessarily off-loaded besides levy of penalty/compounding fee before allowing the vehicle to proceed further. The order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has been brought to the notice of all the State Governments for compliance. Besides, recently in the meeting of the Transport Commissioner/Secretaries of the States/UTs held on 8.9.07, the States were also urged to take necessary measures for strict enforcement of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to check overloading and ensure compliance of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.